



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - October 7, 2002**

- ***In the West***, warm weather is returning to ***California and the Southwest***, promoting summer crop drydown and autumn fieldwork. Meanwhile in the ***Northwest***, emerging, dryland winter wheat will soon need additional moisture to sustain normal growth.
- ***On the Plains***, a cold front and its attendant showers are edging southward across ***Texas***, slowing fieldwork but aiding pastures and winter wheat. Elsewhere in the region, mild, dry weather favors fieldwork and winter wheat emergence, although more warmth is needed on the ***northern Plains*** following a recent cold snap.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, drier air is finally overspreading the ***upper Midwest***, but corn and soybean harvest delays continue due to cool weather and wet field conditions. Meanwhile in the ***southeastern Corn Belt***, additional rain is needed in ***western portion of the soft red winter wheat belt*** for autumn crop establishment.
- ***In the South***, showers and thunderstorms are returning to the ***Delta and the central Gulf Coast region***, maintaining saturated field conditions and further delaying a return to fieldwork. Meanwhile in the ***Atlantic Coast States***, isolated showers are providing additional drought relief and causing only minor fieldwork delays.

**Outlook:** Early this week, a cold front will bring scattered showers to the ***South and East***, although mostly dry weather will prevail in the ***Mid-Atlantic States***. Meanwhile, a weak disturbance will bring showers to the ***northern Rockies, northern Plains, and upper Midwest***. Mostly dry weather is expected over the rest of the country, although showers will linger across the ***southern Plains, Southeast, and upper Midwest*** through mid-week. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 12-16 calls for wetter-than-normal conditions in the ***southern Plains, central High Plains, and upper Midwest***, while drier-than-normal conditions are forecast for the ***Pacific Northwest***. Below-normal temperatures are forecast for the ***western one-third of the U.S.***, while above-normal temperatures are expected across the ***eastern half of the country***.

***Contact:*** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)